Ku Klux Klan-1931

Alabama

Will Break Klan Hold On Juries in Alabama

Journal and Guide

Bill In Alabama Would Abolish Commissions

1-31-31

CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

Norfolk Va.

Legislators Said To Be Friendly To The Proposal

By ATTICUS MULLIN

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— The administration bill designed to remove the hand of the Ku Klux Klan from the jury boxes of Alabama is practically complete and will probably be introduced into the Legislature Thursday. The bill provides for the abolition of every jury commission in Alabama and the substitution of new machinery for the present commissions.

The administration jury commission bill is one of the most important that will reach the Legislature insofar as the whole people of Alabama are concerned because the jury commissioners in the 67 counties of Alabama are charged with the duty of saying whose name shall go into the jury box and whose name shall be taken out. In other words these jury commissions have an overwhelming part in the dispensing of justice and in determination of property rights.

Esdale's Boast Fulfilled

It has been openly charged and never denied that former Gov. Graves filled the jury commissions with klansmen. Before Gov. Graves was inaugurated, Jim Esdale, grand dragon of the klan, proudly boasted that the klan would control the juries of Alabama. And it has never been denied that Esdale knew what he was talking about.

In his speeches over Alabama during the primary campaign Judge Miller never failed to announce that if the people chose him for Governor, he would take the control of the juries of Alabama from the klan and would not countenance jury control by any secret organization or any other organization but would put it in the hands of the whole people.

There are several counties in Alabama where the klan failed to get control of the jury boxes, notably Montgomery where the Governor was not given authority to appoint the jury commission. Montgomery County jury boxes have always contained the names of citizens of Montgomery regardless of their affiliation with this or that secret order. But there are few counties in Alabama that have been as fortunate in this regard as Montgomery.

Many New Appointments

One of the last acts of Gov. Graves was the naming of scores of jury commissioners to serve in the various counties of Alabama. It is openly talked that the great majority of those named were members of the klan, or had been members.

The writer has talked to scores of legislators regarding the jury commission situation in Alabama and in not one single instance has a man been found who did not condemn the present system. That the abolition of the present jury commissions and the substitution of non-klan controlled bodies will pass the Legislature in a hurry is an open secret. It looks like every member of both bodies is anxious to end what is regarded as an intolerable situation so far as the juries of Alabama are concerned.

Klan Comeback To Be Essayed At Rally Today

11-15-31

Montgomery Ala.

Remnants Of Discredited Group Summoned In Effort To Regain Power

Politics In Move

Recalls Kluxers' Alliance With Republican Party In Fight 3 Years Ago

By ATTICUS MULLIN

The remnants of klandom in Alabama will attempt a reorganization of the ku klux klan at a meeting to be held in Birmingham this afternoon in anticipation of the presidential election next year. Judge Hugh Locke, of Birmingham, is listed as one of the principal speakers at the meeting.

Every klansman in Alabama is invited to the meeting whether he is in good standing or not. The meeting is to be called a klorero and the notice of the gathering was sent out over Alabama under the name of the executive secretary. The executive secretary is supposed to be Bert Thomas, of Birmingham, a former officeholder under Gov. Bibb Graves.

"We must come to the rescue of the cause of government again" says the notice of the meeting. Gov. Feagin and Economy (?) Miller are ruining our State. Petty jealousies, interdepartmental feuds and official spite work are bringing shame to our State Capitol. Trust funds are being shamelessly diverted, into whose pockets no one knows yet. Our school teachers have become the unpaid victims of high handed racketeering in Montgomery. Our highways are becoming mudholes and gullies. Our State law enforcement department has been abolished so that negroes assault and murder our white women with impunity, bootleggers flourish, corruption goes unindicted and Russian Communists organize their program of violence and destruction among negroes and ignorant whites. It is high time that all real klansmen gather again in their klaverns, recruit their strength to the very maximum and remind the world by their deeds that klansmen are intolerant of such depravity, incompetence extravagance and waste as now disgrace the State of Alabama."

Esdale Out As Dragon

Going on further the executive secretary says "Klansman James Esdale has resigned as Gran Dragon of Alabama. On Sunday, Nov. 15, our ninth annual Klorero will be held at 1809 1-2 Fourth Avenue, North, Birmingham, starting at 9 o'clock in the morning. Our Imperial Wizard Judge Hugh Locke will deliver thrilling speeches. The new Grand Dragon will be installed. And right there and then the klan leaders assembled from every county in Alabama will start a militant two-fisted, redblooded program of klan action calculated to rebuild klancraft in Alabama stranger than it was ever before and to restore in Alabama the scepter of Klan government that is clean, efficient, orderly, honest and capable.

And further on the letter says "If your local klan is not functioning now don't let that hinder your attendance at the klorero. We want every He Man we can get to that Birmingham meeting. This means that we want you."

One of the sentences in the secretary's letter that brags on having everything klan from the Governor down in the last State administration is as follows: "Not only did you create a klan organization in Alabama that was nationally famous but you also gave to Alabama a State government from Governor on down which proved to be the best our people have ever known."

Montgomery Ala.

Effort No Surprise

The attempt to reorganize and revitalize the discredited ku klux klan organization in Alabama comes as no surprise to those who have been watching recent undercover political events in Alabama. It will be remembered that just prior to the last presidential campaign the klan began to get in a sad way in Alabama, but the Republican organization, through the klan weekly paper at Washington, and through judicious campaign expenditures revitalized the klan and used it in an attempt to carry Alabama for Herbert Hoover. How near the klan succeeded in doing that is Alabama political history now.

The same Judge Hugh Locke who "will make thrilling speeches" at the klorero in Birmingham today was a strong power in the attempt to throw Alabama into the Republican column and later become the bolting candidate for Governor with former Senator Heflin, another darling of the klan, as his running mate for the United States Senate.

There is considerable difference now in the political complexion of Alabama from the days when the Republican party was so successfully backing up the klan. In the first place the klan elected Graves Governor on less than 30 per cent of the votes of the people. That was when the discredited Graves primray law was in effect by which minorities could control the election. Today a man to be Governor must muster more than 50 per cent of the votes of the State.

That there is a determined movement on foot to get ready for a bolt to Hoover again in Alabama has been known for sometime. Also the McAdoo supporters have been busy under cover. One method of one well known klan politician has been the organization of prayer meeting societies of women, especially in South and Southeast Alabama. Naturally, political observers have been watching these events and now that the klan has come out in the open with its fight on the Democratic organization in Alabama, Democrats will no doubt get on guard once again.

Kln Klux Klan-1931

Alabama

Conviction Upheld In Flogging Case

The Alabama Court of Appeals yesterday affirmed the conviction of John Bailey in the Jefferson Circuit Court, who was fined $100 on a charge of assault and battery in connection with the flogging of Hugh McSweeney.

The exceptions taken by Bailey included the contention that the trial court erred in permitting testimony showing that the injured party was confined to his bed for some time as a result of the flogging, and that the State did not show any motive for the crime.

The Court held that admission of testimony regarding condition of the injured party was proper and that it was not necessary that a motive be shown.

The evidence shows that several men called at the home of McSweeney at 11:30 one night and represented themselves as officers and stated that they had a warrant for the arrest of McSweeney. They forced McSweeney to dress, carried him away in an automobile to a spot about three or four miles from his home, and "severely whipped and beat him." McSweeney testified that he recognized Bailey as the man who did the whipping. Bailey contended that he was at his home at the time the crime was committed.

In another opinion it was held by Judge Samford that where liquids containing alcohol, such as vanilla and lemon extract, are sold as and used for beverage purposes such sale or possession is in violation of the Alabama prohibition statutes.

The case was appealed from the Jackson Circuit Court in which E. E. Brandon was convicted of selling, or having in his possession lemon or vanilla extracts containing alcohol and made or used for beverage purposes.

The Court pointed out that it is not a violation of the law for merchants to sell and persons to possess extracts as extracts are ordinarily sold or possessed as articles of legitimate commerce, but when used and sold as beverages it becomes a violation of the law.

The question as to whether or not the extracts were sold or kept in good faith is a question for the jury to determine from the evidence, it was held.

Klu Klux Klan-1931

Florida

SIX MEN INDICTED IN FLOGGING PROBE

CLEARWATER, Fla., May 8.—(AP)—Investigating a series of recent floggings in this section of the state, the Pinellas county grand jury today indicted six men and a woman on charges of kidnaping in connection with the abduction and whipping of R. W. Oxford, of St. Petersburg, February 23. Constitution

They are to be arraigned tomorrow.

Those named in the indictments are Paul Nolen, St. Petersburg grocer; B. B. Bachelder, St. Petersburg carpenter; Robert Letsinger, proprietor of a St. Petersburg automobile wrecking yard; Wilbur C. Mills, Tampa salesman; Benny Pardo and Sam Cicarello, Tampa mechanics, and Mrs. Alice Henderson Woods, Tampa. The woman was charged with being a decoy for the gang that abducted Oxford. 5-9-31

The flogging of Oxford and subsequent developments which authorities said "indicated the existence of a gang which operated in a business-like fashion, whipping any one pointed out upon the payment of a sufficient sum," have been under investigation of Pinellas county and St. Petersburg officers for several months. Decided 19

The grand jury, being assisted in its investigations by Acting State Attorney Dewey A. Dye, of Bradenton, may also investigate the murder last December of Dr. Archie McCallister, of Tarpon Springs, officers said. Dr. McCallister was shot down by an unidentified assailant who escaped.

Kluxers Tried to Scare Mary McLeod Bethune

Indirect

Mary McLeod Bethune, of Florida and head of the Bethune-Cookman School, told Wednesday's audience of the Non-Partisan Conference how members of the ku klux klan tried to intimidate her during an election in Florida some time ago. 12-11-31

Mrs. Bethune said klansmen rode across the campus dressed in white robes and tried to frighten the women so as to prevent them from going to the polls. During the march of the klansmen a girl started singing in one of the dormitories "God Will Take Care of You." The kluxers rode away. The women went to the polls the following morning and were not molested. Washington Post

Klu Klux Klan -1931

General

SEEK TO REVIVE KU KLUX KLAN UNDER A NEW NAME

Atlanta 6-1-31

Spirit of the Klan Organization Sets Sail Under Name of "National Order of Protestant Club." Negroes Catholics and Jews Come Under Ban. Will Fight For an Undiluted White Race to Govern America.

St. Louis, Mo

WASHINGTON April 27.—(CNS) —For the so-called "purpose of uniting acceptable white male citizens" a new secret order patterned on the Ku Klux Klan has been organized here. The order, it is claimed, will be a national secret patriotic Protestant organization and is said to have arisen out of the ruins of the Klans and bearing animosity against the invisible empire" which now stands deserted.

Known as the "National Order of Protestant Clubs" the organization is reported to have firmly established itself here under sponsorship of several flourishing units, to meet here on May 5 and elect national officers.

Immediately afterward, according to its promoters, the order will be incorporated here; the names of several officers revealed, and a drive launched for members here and elsewhere. National headquarters also are to be established in Washington promptly after incorporation.

The organization is "for the purpose of uniting acceptable white male citizens of unrestricted but Protestant convictions and beliefs, into a strong, mutual, militant fraternal organization incorporated and mutually owned by its members as a whole, and not by any one individual or group of individuals, thereby eliminating all thought of patriotic commercialism. "Naturalized as well as native-born citizens are accepted.

"It stands for the protection of our institutions, municipal, State and national, against the insiduous inroads and undermining motive and attacks of those isms commonly known as communism and fascism together with all sorts of isms whose subversive movement are inimical to our plans of constitutional government," its promoters revealed.

"It stands for and will support all improvement and extension of the principals of our system of free public schools as the very foundation of our American institutions and thesocial and economic welfare of our people; and i's intention is to aid in the carrying out of those beliefs and purposes through education, persuasion, publicity and the press.

"It believes in and will support the continued American policy of absolute separation of church and State.

"It believes in and will support an undiluted white race for our country, and oppose all laws permitting intermarriages between white and colored races.

"It is also claimed that the order has the actual active support and endorsement of many very influential individuals and interests; and it is the first fraternal and patriotic organization of its kind ever founded upon lines whereby it will always be controlled and operated by its members without any possibility of one-man control, group control or clique control for commercial gain, it being wholly owned and operated by its members.

New Secret Order

East Tennessee

4-30-31

Pattern Of Ku Klux

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Knoxville. Tenn

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Klu Klux Klan-1931

Michigan
6

BURN CROSS IN FRONT OF UNDERTAKER'S HOME

Courier 3-7-31 Pittsburgh Pa

James A. Webster of Detroit Was Running Against White Candidate For School Inspector.

DETROIT, Mich., March 5.—(ANP)—The burning of a fiery cross in front of the home of James A. Webster, prominent undertaker here, Friday night, gave rise to the much discussed statement that since Negroes have forged to the front in politics in recent months, they would have a certain body of Negro haters to contend with.

While the burning of the fiery cross has aroused the group somewhat, it has not been the occasion of any great alarm, for Negroes here refuse to he frightened any longer by this or any other under-cover organization. They believe more in self-protection.

On the porch of Mr. Webster's home a card signed with three K.'s was found. This is believed to be an effort to frighten Mr. Webster, who is a candidate for the position of school inspector, running against a white man named John H. Webster. The election was March 2.

Kiu Klux Klan - 1931

Michigan.
8

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3-7-31

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Pittsburgh, Pa

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Klu Klux Klan - 1931

New York.

WHITE CHURCH IN N. Y. SPLIT BY KLAN ISSUE

3-14-31

BEDFORD, N. Y., March 12—(A. N. P.)—The presentation of an American flag on behalf of "The Westchester Ku Klux Klan" to the Rev. Archibald Fulton has caused a rift in the congregation of the historic white Presbyterian church of this village.

The flag was presented by the Klansmen at the celebration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the church when, in the midst of the exercises, a group of the hooded order walked down the aisles and presented the "token of respect and esteem."

SUN

Ardsley, N. Y.

APR 22 1931

THE FUTILITY OF FIERY CROSSES

Some unknown persons of defective mentality burned a six-foot cross on the front lawn of a house occupied by negroes on North Kensico Avenue, White Plains, on April 16th. Exactly one year previously, a cross was burned in front of the home of Dr. Collymore, negro dentist, on South Lexington Avenue, White Plains.

Presumably the purpose of such childish and moronic behavior, is to notify the negroes concerned, to get out. Their presence is not wanted in white residential neighborhoods.

We are not concerned with the advisability of negroes occupying houses in white neighborhoods. What does concern us is the absurdity of burning crosses and other similar theatrical conduct.

The Constitution permits of no discrimination on the ground of color, race or creed. To attempt such discrimination through threats of physical violence, therefore, is definitely a nullification of the Constitution. Just as much a nullification, we believe, as taking a drink in violation of the 18th Amendment. More so, in fact, for the 18th Amendment does not, after all, prohibit the taking of a drink, provided you can get the liquor legally.

The strange thing is that the burning of fiery crosses is a playful habit of the Ku Klux Klan, an organization which professes to be more than 100 per cent American. The truth is, of course, that the Ku Klux Klan is the antithesis of things American and a cloak for the activities of schemers and their following of deluded fools and low grade morons.

There is too much of the Ku Klux Klan stuff in Westchester. The sooner these night shirt addicts realize that the true American gentleman comes out into the open when he wants to express his disagreement instead of fooling around at night lighting fires on other people's lawns and then beating it like a coward, the better off for all of us, and the quicker shall we get any defects in the law adjusted.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.
REPORTER

APR 18 1931

THE BURNING OF CROSSES

On April 16th of 1930, in the hours after midnight, some person, or persons, burned a cross in front of a Negro's home in the Highlands, on South Lexington Avenue.

On April 16th of 1931, in the hours before midnight, some person, or persons, burned a cross in front of a Negro's home on North Kensico avenue.

Maybe this burning of crosses, emblematic, reminidful, or in imitation of the methods of the Ku Klux Klan is becoming an annual event, taking a place long held in the list of Springtime fans by the barbers' strike.

No matter how people may feel about Negroes coming to live in neighborhoods in which white people have lived exclusively there hardly is any warrant for the show of terrorism that is linked with the burning of crosses in the dead of night.

Such actions do not bring public opinion to bear upon those against whom they are aimed. As a matter of fact, the opposite is true. Public opinion is more likely to swing over to those who are the objects of such attacks.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
EAGLE

APR 1 - 1931

Letters From Eagle Readers

'We Hate Nobody'

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

In your editorial references to "Ku-Klux riders" and lynchings, please be fair. The Klan believes in white supremacy; it does not, however, hate or harass the Negro. The Klan in this State is growing. Do not fear; we hate no individual. We believe in law and order—and sacred American principles. Do not bespatter us with mud. Daily Eagle, for many of read your paper.

KLANSMAN.

Yonkers, N. Y., April 1.

Ku Klux Klan - 1931.

Ohio.

Views of Other Editors

Courier

KLAN AT IT AGAIN

About the time we might have convinced ourselves that the Ku Klux Klan was only an unpleasant dream of the past, it reappears actively in Ohio with a proposed state gathering to foment discriminatory race legislation. 10-17-31

The major purposes of the meeting, it is said, are to foster a law barring marriages between Negro and white races, and the segregation of the races in their residence districts and schools.

But neither of these matters appears to be a pressing necessity in Ohio. The relations of the races have been quite satisfactory in the last few years. Miscegenation, whether desirable or not, is proceeding no faster here than in southern states, which by law forbid intermarriage. It will continue at approximately the same rate regardless of any legal barrier. The real check on this social tendency is popular opinion, and not legislation.

A measure of segregation has been achieved automatically, in all important communities of Ohio, sufficient to enable both races to pursue their best interests with a minimum of friction. Beyond this point, arbitrary efforts by law to enforce segregation would engender racial hatreds and serve no useful purpose in return.

In addition to the fact that the Klan's projects are not required by circumstances, there is a further danger in the ambitions of the Ohio organization. Never in its history has the Ku Klux Klan confined its efforts to fair and honest discussion of public issues. Instead it has followed the plan of whispering campaigns of hatred and prejudice, and even of violence.

Therefore the Klan cannot be regarded as simply one more social grouping devoted to lobbying purposes. Purporting to espouse 100 per cent Americanism, it is distinctly un-American. Thriving on prejudices it is an enduring threat to the welfare of the American people.

—Cincinnati Enquirer.

DR. MILLER INCIDENT IS CITED

Courier 10-17-31 Pittsburgh, Pa.

A Three-Year Program Started At Columbus Ku Klux Klan Meeting Last Sunday—2,000 Hooded Klansmen In Unmolested Parade.

COLUMBUS, Oct. 8—Considerable interest has been aroused throughout the state of Ohio in the announcement of a three-year program leading to the passage of legislation making racial intermarriage illegal which was adopted recently by the Ohio Ku Klux Klan, in annual session in South High School.

Following this the segregation of white and Negro children in public schools will be sought, J. A. Colescott, Terre Haute (Ind.) grand dragon of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, said.

Approximately 2000 klansmen paraded unmolested to the high school in full regalia. The school auditorium was filled to capacity by spectators and marchers, who witnessed a play setting forth that the Negro as well as the white person is better off among their own people.

"In view of the communistic activities in Cleveland and Barberton and of the Dr. Herbert A. Miller episode at Ohio State University, we have come to a point where we believe it is necessary to step into the situation," Colescott said.

"The Negroes ought to be satisfied and would be better off with their own schools with the privilege of their own teachers," he declared.

The play, written by Edmund Neil of Columbus, is to be presented in every county, and petitions are to be circulated so that the next legislature may be asked to place the question of racial intermarriage on the ballot.

Ohio Klansmen Try Comeback Through Insidious Drama

Courier 12-5-31 Pittsburgh, Pa.

(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

SPRINGFIELD, O., Dec. 3.—Wallowing in the slough of basest intolerance and ignorance, fostered by race hatred, the Ohio membership of the ill-fated Ku Klux Klan endeavored to stage a comeback here last Sunday night in Memorial Hall, at the mercy of the American Negro by displaying a momentous fear for the destruction of white supremacy in America in the presentation of a three-act melodrama entitled the "Great American Tragedy."

It was attempted in this playlet to convey to the public (and that is how I got in) the klan's conception of why intermarriage between whites and blacks should be abolished in this and other states. It also attempted to show why complete segregation of the races should be had everywhere. It was depicted in the play that every black male is a potential rapist and that white women are in constant danger wherever Negro men are allowed to be in their presence.

According to J. A. Colescott, grand dragno of the Ohio knights of the Ku Klux Klan, 1106 S. High street, Columbus, Ohio, every American white man should see and hear this play as it would dispel any thought he may previously held regarding the much talked of white supremacy, miscegnation and social equality. The play deals wholly with matters pertaining to race relations.

FORMS 'WHITE BAND'

Courier 11-28-31

WAUSEON, O., Nov. 26—Col. W. J. Simmons, founder of the Ku Klux Klan, is organizing a society, the "White Band," to save the country from communism.

Klu Klux Klan – 1931

South Carolina

KKK Raid Greenville Jobless Council: Beat Up Unemployed

Daily Worker 4-11-31 New York, N.Y.

Terrorism to Try to Keep Negro and White Workers from Uniting for Struggle; White Jobless Defend Colored Against Kluxers

May First Demonstrations Will Answer New Attacks; Daily Events Expose Capitalism

"Grand Cyclops" Confesses Klan Was Extinct, Was Revived by Mayor to Fight Unemployed Council; Jobless Determined to Fight On

GREENVILLE, S. C., April 10.—More than 100 masked Ku Klux Klansmen raided the Workers' Hall here last night as the Council of the Unemployed began its meeting, and ordered all to leave. The workers refused to go, and the K.K.K. began to beat up the Negroes. The white workers immediately came to their defense, and some of them were beaten too. The city police were present, but made no move to interfere.

The organizers of the unemployed council were ordered to leave town at once, although every one of them is a local resident, and threatened with being "taken out" if they did not go. The members of the K.K.K. gang were recognized as mill owners, business men, and white chauvinists.

Organize and fight for unemployment insurance and immediate relief. Church property must be taxed for the unemployed. They made their wealth off the poor. Join the Unemployed Councils.

—A. A.

BERKLEY POLICE FORCE INCREASED

While 50 Per Cent Are Jobless Here

Berkeley, Calif.

Daily Worker:

Hollis R. Thompson, city manager, of Berkeley, pats himself and his friends on the back, disclosing a treasury balance of $773,148.03. "The splendid financial operation of the city government for the last 6 months is due to careful budget operation system and the splendid co-operation of all city departments," says Thompson.

It is further disclosed by Thompson and Greening, acting chief of police, why this patting on the back was needed. "Strength of the police department of this city was increased from 52 to 55 men, because of increasing crime wave."

We know well that in Berkeley industries have decreased in employment steadily and the workers' conditions here are intolerable. This city has 209 manufacturing establishments, employing in normal times about 9,000 workers. At present employment has dropped to 4,348 persons, according to a survey by the chamber of commerce. This steady drop of employment to 50 per cent of normal spells struggles for the workers in Berkeley and so an increase in the police force was given.

The city father, Thompson, openly flaunts the balance in the treasury in the face of such industrial depression and unemployment. Berkeley unemployed have not received a red cent from the city budget and are left to starve. The workers cannot expect support from that source

KLAN BREAKS UP TRADE LEAGUE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

GREENVILLE, S. C., April 22. — The Trade Unity League here, which is composed of white and colored workers, was virtually broken up last week when one hundred hooded klansmen entered the meeting hall, seized what they termed communistic literature, drove the members of the league out and locked up the place. Six of the white leaders of the organization were ordered out of town immediately, the report said.

Tennessee

Klu Klux Klan-1931

Officials Are Warned Against Klan Attack

Chattanooga
4-29-31

NEW YORK, April 28.—(AP)—The International Labor Defense, which has interested itself in the impending electrocution of eight negroes at Montgomery, Ala., for criminal assault, announced today the following telegram had been sent to the Governor of Tennessee and the mayor of Chattanooga.

"Through reliable sources we learn that the K. K. K. of Tennessee planning attack Chattanooga offices International Labor Defense, now raising last protest against lynching eight Scottsboro negro boys. Scores of thousands negro and white workers in the United States in addition to members and affiliated organizations to the International Labor Defense hold you responsible in such an event."

The telegrams were signed by George Maurer, secretary.